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15 January 1959

NSC BRIEFING

IRAQ INSERT

- II. Premier Qasim in an official statement on 14 January, possibly acting under prodding from the army, possibly also aware of the new army plotting, warned the Communist-dominated Popular Resistance Force and the Iraqi Students Union against further violation of general security and peace, and reminded them that they were authorized to act only under emergency conditions specified by the military authorities and on orders issued by such authorities.
- A. If warning backed up by army, this first indication Qasim may act to curb spread of Communist influence.
 - B. PRF and Students Union are civilian groups most capable altering events in Iraq by violence.
 - C. Intelligence reports over the past months have given a gloomy picture which reveals Qasim as increasingly under Communist influence with only the army as a potential effective counterbalance.
 - D. Qasim's statement suggests that army influence may now be increasing but we reserve judgement. Qasim may not enforce decrees.
 - E. Communist elements may now move toward showdown or for the time being retire somewhat behind the scene local Communist press has not printed Qasim statement or commented on.

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